

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Withdrawn-Currently amended) A molded article comprising high molecular weight α -1,4-glucan ~~and/or its modification~~, and low molecular weight α -1,4-glucan ~~and/or its modification~~, wherein the low molecular weight α -1,4-glucan has a degree of polymerization of greater than or equal to 180 and less than 620, and the high molecular weight α -1,4-glucan has a degree of polymerization of greater than or equal to 620 and less than 37000.

2. (Withdrawn) A molded article according to Claim 1, wherein the low molecular weight α -1,4-glucan has the degree of polymerization of greater than or equal to 180 and less than 560, and the high molecular weight α -1,4-glucan has the degree of polymerization of greater than or equal to 680 and less than 37000.

3. (Withdrawn) A molded article according to Claim 1, wherein the low molecular weight α -1,4-glucan has a molecular weight distribution of not greater than 1.25, and the high molecular weight α -1,4-glucan has a molecular weight distribution of not greater than 1.25.

4. (Withdrawn) A molded article according to Claim 1, wherein the α -1,4-glucans are enzyme-synthesized α -1,4-glucan.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Withdrawn-Currently amended) A molded article according to Claim 1, wherein a weight ratio of high molecular weight α -1,4-glucan ~~and/or its modification~~ : low molecular weight α -1,4-glucan and/or its modification is within the range of 99:1 to 25:75.

7. (Withdrawn-Currently amended) A molded article according to Claim 1, wherein a weight ratio of high molecular weight α -1,4-glucan ~~and/or its modification~~ : low molecular weight α -1,4-glucan ~~and/or its modification~~ is within the range of 99:1 to 50:50.

8. (Withdrawn-Currently amended) A molded article according to Claim 1, wherein a weight ratio of high molecular weight α -1,4-glucan ~~and/or its modification~~ : low molecular weight α -1,4-glucan ~~and/or its modification~~ is within the range of 99:1 to 75:25.

9. (Withdrawn) A molded article according to Claim 1, wherein the molded article is film, sheet, coating, fiber, yarn, non-woven fabric, a food container, an edible container, a medical material, a medical device or a gelatinous molded article.

10. (Withdrawn) A molded article according to Claim 1, wherein the molded article is a contact-type food container which directly covers a surface of an agricultural product or a food product.

11. (Withdrawn) A molded article according to Claim 1, wherein the molded article is a hard capsule, a soft capsule or a seamless capsule.

12. (Withdrawn) A molded article according to Claim 1, wherein the molded article is a feed for an animal, a food or a food additive.

13. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a molded article ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of:

(i) high molecular weight α -1,4-glucan ~~or its modification, or a combination thereof~~ and

(ii) low molecular weight α -1,4-glucan ~~or its modification, or a combination thereof~~, wherein the process comprises the step of:
adding the low molecular weight α -1,4-glucan ~~or its modification or a combination thereof~~ to a solution comprising the high molecular weight α -1,4-glucan ~~or its modification or a combination thereof~~ to gel the solution, wherein
~~the modification of the α -1,4-glucans is a chemical modification selected from the group consisting of esterification, etherification and crosslinking;~~

the low molecular weight α -1,4-glucan has a degree of polymerization of greater than or equal to 180 and less than 620, and has a molecular weight distribution of not greater than 1.25 and,

the high molecular weight α -1,4-glucan has a degree of polymerization of greater than or equal to 620 and less than 37000, and has a molecular weight distribution of not greater than 1.25.

14. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a molded article comprising

(i) high molecular weight α -1,4-glucan ~~or its modification, or a combination thereof~~ and

(ii) low molecular weight α -1,4-glucan ~~or its modification, or a combination thereof~~, wherein the process comprises the step of:

cooling a solution comprising the high molecular weight α -1,4-glucan ~~or its modification, or a combination thereof~~ and the low molecular weight α -1,4-glucan ~~or its modification, or a combination thereof~~ to gel the solution, wherein

~~the modification of the α -1,4-glucans is a chemical modification selected from the group consisting of esterification, etherification and crosslinking,~~

the low molecular weight α -1,4-glucan has a degree of polymerization of greater than or equal to 180 and less than 620, and has a molecular weight distribution of not greater than 1.25 and,

the high molecular weight α -1,4-glucan has a degree of polymerization of greater than or equal to 620 and less than 37000, and has a molecular weight distribution of not greater than 1.25.

15. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a molded article comprising

(i) high molecular weight α -1,4-glucan ~~or its modification, or a combination thereof~~ and

(ii) low molecular weight α -1,4-glucan ~~or its modification, or a combination thereof~~, wherein the process comprises the step of:

neutralizing an alkaline solution comprising the high molecular weight α -1,4-glucan ~~or its modification, or a combination thereof~~ and the low molecular weight α -1,4-glucan ~~or its modification, or a combination thereof~~ to gel the solution, wherein

~~the modification of the α -1,4-glucans is a chemical modification selected from the group consisting of esterification, etherification and crosslinking,~~

the low molecular weight α -1,4-glucan has a degree of polymerization of greater than or equal to 180 and less than 620, and has a molecular weight distribution of not greater than 1.25 and,

the high molecular weight α -1,4-glucan has a degree of polymerization of greater than or equal to 620 and less than 37000, and has a molecular weight distribution of not greater than 1.25.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously presented) A process for preparing a molded article according to Claim 13, wherein

the low molecular weight α -1,4-glucan has a degree of polymerization of greater than or equal to 180 and less than 560, and has a molecular weight distribution of not greater than 1.25 and,

the high molecular weight α -1,4-glucan has a degree of polymerization of greater than or equal to 680 and less than 37000, and has a molecular weight distribution of not greater than 1.25.

18. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a molded article according to ~~Claim 16~~ Claim 13, wherein the α -1,4-glucans are enzyme-synthesized α -1,4-glucan.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a molded article according to Claim 13, wherein a weight ratio of the high molecular weight α -1,4-glucan ~~or its modification, or a combination thereof~~ and the low molecular weight α -1,4-glucan ~~or its modification, or a combination thereof~~ is within the range of 99:1 to 25:75.

21. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a molded article according to Claim 13, wherein a weight ratio of high molecular weight α -1,4-glucan ~~or its modification, or a combination thereof~~ : low molecular weight α -1,4-glucan ~~or its modification, or a combination thereof~~ is within the range of 99:1 to 50:50.

22. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a molded article according to Claim 13, wherein a weight ratio of high molecular weight α -1,4-glucan ~~or its modification, or a combination thereof~~ : low molecular weight α -1,4-glucan ~~or its modification, or a combination thereof~~ is within the range of 99:1 to 75:25.

23-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Previously presented) A process for preparing a molded article according to Claim 14, wherein

the low molecular weight α -1,4-glucan has a degree of polymerization of greater than or equal to 180 and less than 560, and has a molecular weight distribution of not greater than 1.25 and,

the high molecular weight α -1,4-glucan has a degree of polymerization of greater than or equal to 680 and less than 37000, and has a molecular weight distribution of not greater than 1.25.

27. (Previously presented) A process for preparing a molded article according to Claim 15, wherein

the low molecular weight α -1,4-glucan has a degree of polymerization of greater than or equal to 180 and less than 560, and has a molecular weight distribution of not greater than 1.25 and,

the high molecular weight α -1,4-glucan has a degree of polymerization of greater than or equal to 680 and less than 37000, and has a molecular weight distribution of not greater than 1.25.

28-29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a molded article according to Claim 14, wherein a weight ratio of the high molecular weight α -1,4-glucan ~~or its modification, or a combination thereof~~ and the low molecular weight α -1,4-glucan ~~or its modification, or a combination thereof~~ is within the range of 99:1 to 25:75.

31. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a molded article according to Claim 15, wherein a weight ratio of the high molecular weight α -1,4-glucan ~~or its modification, or a combination thereof~~ and the low molecular weight α -1,4-glucan ~~or its modification, or a combination thereof~~ is within the range of 99:1 to 25:75.

32. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a molded article according to Claim 14, wherein a weight ratio of high molecular weight α -1,4-glucan ~~or its modification, or a combination thereof~~ : low molecular weight α -1,4-glucan ~~or its modification, or a combination thereof~~ is within the range of 99:1 to 50:50.

33. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a molded article according to Claim 15, wherein a weight ratio of high molecular weight α -1,4-glucan ~~or its modification, or a combination thereof~~ : low molecular weight α -1,4-glucan ~~or its modification, or a combination thereof~~ is within the range of 99:1 to 50:50.

34. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a molded article according to Claim 14, wherein a weight ratio of high molecular weight α -1,4-glucan ~~or its modification, or a combination thereof~~ : low molecular weight α -1,4-glucan ~~or its modification, or a combination thereof~~ is within the range of 99:1 to 75:25.

35. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a molded article according to Claim 15, wherein a weight ratio of high molecular weight α -1,4-glucan ~~or its modification, or a combination thereof~~ : low molecular weight α -1,4-glucan ~~or its modification, or a combination thereof~~ is within the range of 99:1 to 75:25.